17. (Three Times Amended) A method of detecting the presence or absence of antibodies in an animal or human, against a pathogenic mycobacteria in a sample which comprises:

(a) providing a polypeptide according to Claim 1 , 2 or 24, or a polypeptide which comprises a sequence selected from the sequences of SEQ ID NO: 31, 33, 35, 37 [and], 39 [or a polypeptide having] and sequences that have at least 70% amino acid homology [thereto] to any one of said sequences of SEQ ID NO: 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39, over 30 or more contiguous amino acids, which comprises an epitope;

(b) incubating a biological sample with said polypeptide under conditions which allow for the formation of an antibody-antigen complex; and

(c) determining whether antibody-antigen complex comprising said polypeptide is formed.

18. (Twice Amended) A pharmaceutical composition [according to claim 16 or a composition] comprising a polypeptide which comprises a sequence selected from the sequences of SEQ ID NO: 31, 33, 35, 37 [and], 39 [or a polypeptide having] and sequences that have at least 70% amino [and] acid homology [thereto] to any one of said sequences of SEQ ID NO: 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39, over 30 or more contiguous amino acids, in a suitable carrier or diluent [, for use in the treatment or prevention of diseases caused by mycobacteria].

24. (Amended) A polypeptide in isolated form which comprises a sequence selected from the sequences of SEQ ID NO: 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 [and], 29[, or a polypeptide having] and sequences that have at least 80% amino acid homology [thereto] to any